

# EXHIBIT A

**THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
EASTERN DIVISION**

**JOHN BARNHARDT, ET AL.**

**PLAINTIFFS**

**and**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**PLAINTIFF-INTERVENOR**

**v.**

**CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:65-cv-1300-HTW-LGI**

**MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL SEPARATE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT, ET AL.**

**DEFENDANTS**

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**PROPOSED ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT PURSUANT TO FED R. CIV. P. 23(E)**

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The Private Plaintiffs John Barnhardt, et al. and Defendants Meridian Public School District, et al. have jointly moved the Court for final approval of their proposed Settlement Agreement that would terminate this desegregation action. The Settlement Agreement and supporting materials have been submitted to the Court. [ECF 158]. This Court granted preliminary approval of the Settlement Agreement and authorized the setting and procedures for the unitary status hearing, for publication of notice of a hearing, and for public objection and comment. [ECF 202]. On September 12, 2023, this Court held a fairness hearing on the Settlement Agreement.

The Court, having considered the Settlement Agreement, public comments submitted before the fairness hearing, and testimony and exhibits offered during the fairness hearing, finds the Settlement Agreement should be approved.

The Court ORDERS that the SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT is APPROVED.

**SO ORDERED**, this \_\_ day of September, 2023.

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Honorable Henry T. Wingate  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Agreed to by:

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